

Official Final Response

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APR 18 2003

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DATE: April 17, 2003

TO: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
ATTN: Examiner Dionne Walls
Technology Center 1731

FROM: Christopher M. Humphrey

RE:

Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 – Expedited
Procedure – Examining Group 1731

In re: Dube *et al.*

Confirmation No.: 7464

Appl. No.: 09/624,820

Group No.: 1731

Filed: July 25, 2000

Examiner: D. Walls

For: METHOD OF IMPROVING FLAVOR IN SMOKING ARTICLE

Documents Attached: Second Amendment After Final Action (3 pages)

NO. OF PAGES:
(Including cover page)

4

OPERATOR:

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Attorney's Docket No. JJ-124B-R&D

PATENT

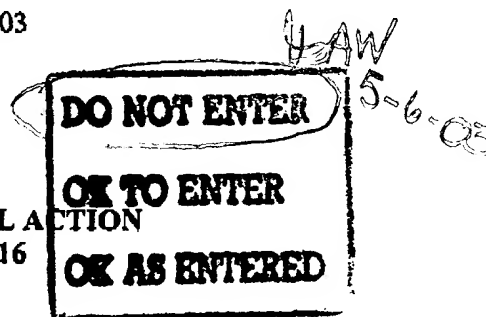
**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 – EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE – EXAMINING GROUP 1731**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:	Dube <i>et al.</i>	Confirmation No.:	7464
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April 17, 2003

BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231



**SECOND AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

This following is offered as a second full and complete response to the Final Office Action mailed March 27, 2003. Since a Notice of Appeal was filed on March 10, 2003, this Amendment is timely filed. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 1-4, 6-9, 13, and 15-24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new Claims 27-30 as follows:

27. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein said mixture further comprises water.
28. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the heat treatment is conducted under a pressure of from about 20 psig to about 500 psig.

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